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NOV 1 3 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of transmitting speech frames in a TDMA packet switched network ~~in which at least one time-slot of the TDMA frame is allocated to at least two users~~, the method comprising:

receiving speech user data from at least two users having the same data rate requirement;

encoding said speech user data from the at least two users into a single radio link control / medium access control (RLC/MAC) block;

allocating at least one time slot of a time division multiple access (TDMA) frame to the RLC/MAC block; and

transmitting at least a portion of the encoded RLC/MAC block in the allocated at least one time-slot such that it carries speech data from each of the at least two users.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting the encoded RLC/MAC block in a plurality of time-slots, wherein the plurality includes the at least one time slot.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting step includes a step of interleaving the RLC/MAC block such that the at least one time-slot carries at least a part of the user data from each of the two users.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 in which the at least one time-slot carries at least a part of the user data from each of the two users.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 2 wherein:

the network is an EDGE packet switched network;

the user data is speech; and

the transmitting step comprises transmitting the RLC/MAC block in four of the plurality of time-slots.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein each time slot carries a quarter of the encoded user data for each user.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step includes a step of interleaving the RLC/MAC block such that in each TDMA frame the at least one time slot carries at least a part of the user data from only one of the two users.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein in each TDMA frame the at least one time-slot carries at least a part of the user data from one of the two users.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein an encoded speech frame from each of the two users is carried over an alternate ones of a plurality of time slots, wherein the plurality of time slots include the at least one time slot.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein
the network is an EDGE packet switched network;
the user data is speech; and
the transmitting step comprises transmitting the RLC/MAC block in four of the plurality of time-slots.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein alternate time slots carry half of the encoded user data for each user.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user data comprises speech.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein:
the network is a wireless network; and
the speech frames are transmitted on the down-link of the network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein:

the network is a wireless network; and

user data is transmitted on the up-link of the network.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the at least one time-slot simultaneously carries at least a part of the user data from each of the two users.